

Acorn

Drew University

Founded in 1928

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A weekly newspaper of the Drew Community by the students of the
College of Liberal Arts.

The Acorn welcomes letters from our readers which are relevant to issues of concern to Drew students. Letters should be sent to The Acorn via campus mail box L-321. Deadline for publication in the same week is 4 p.m. Tuesday. All letters must be signed and addressed. Names will be withheld upon request.

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And now for something different

GREAT changes are occurring in the way Drew University is run; administrators attend management training sessions, where they are told to "think of students as consumers." The Physical Plant Office is evolving, shedding old skin and personnel at a dizzying rate. Big chiefs from FRM (the outside firm brought in to clean up physical plant's act) have come in to light fires under their little chiefs. Things are finally looking up for the students, right?

Well, it all depends on how you look at it. The management seminars sound like a great idea, as they try to stimulate creative thinking amongst ossified cerebral tissue and bring new vigor to a moribund bureaucracy. They try to teach leadership principles, such as leading by example. The University President and Vice President were notably absent from the most recent meeting. Great example, guys.

But they're not alone; as the year continues, people seem to be finding it inconvenient to attend these morning meetings. Innovation falls victim to business as usual.

As far as learning to view the students as consumers, well, that's a terrific concept. And they're applying it, too, in the finest capitalist tradition, charging us more and giving us less. Wait, that's not strictly true. They are giving us more of something: excuses.

And now for something completely different: the Plant Office. Oh boy. These guys are priceless. Management specialists. It's four weeks into the fall semester, things are backed up, the natives are restless, and FRM promises that they're doing their best to fix this mess.

There's a stack of work orders requesting keys to be made, locks to be repaired, doors to be fixed, and the locksmith is *on vacation!* One student has been waiting for a key to his room for over a week. When asked why another locksmith hadn't been hired in the interim, the response was simply one of befuddlement. Even without an MBA, it seems pretty obvious that if there is a labor shortage, one should hire more workers.

FRM calls it reorganization; high school students call it a Chinese Fire Drill. Everyone runs around the car, jumps back in, and continues driving down the wrong road. If they can't get the job done before the Millennium, let's get someone who can. It's time for the University to demand "Stand and deliver!"

Are the students satisfied? Does the Administration feel that the students are willing to go with the flow, like usual? Have the students let the Administrators know how they feel?

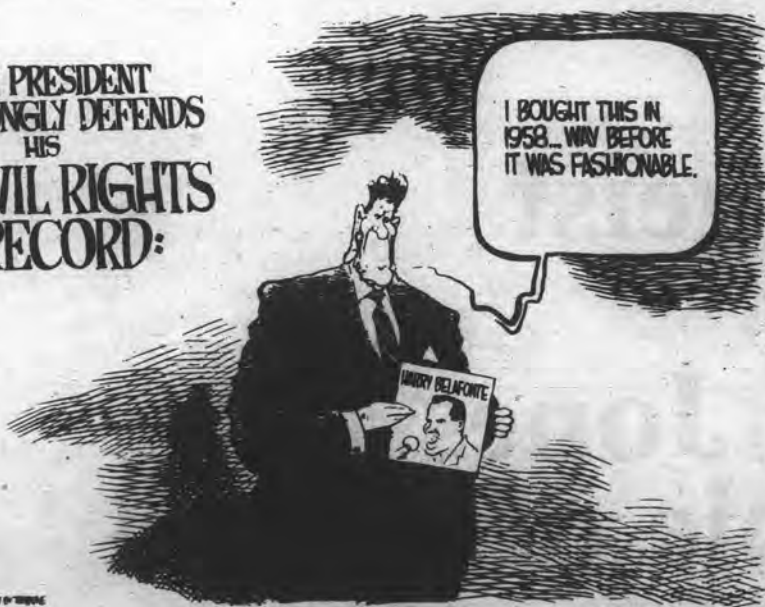
If every student who had a grievance, who was less than satisfied with the current state of affairs showed up on President Hardin's front lawn for a three hour candlelight vigil, maybe he'd get the message.

The students can bring about change. We have more power than we realize. When six Resident Directors were threatened with dismissal last year, the students mobilized. They prepared a letter for mailing to parents, trustees and the parents of prospective students, detailing the lack of concern for the welfare of the students that the University had displayed.

The students went toe-to-toe with the Administration, and the Administration blinked. The six were offered their jobs back.

As long as the students refuse to allow the problems to fade away, change can occur. But the students must be proactive. Otherwise the University will just wait us out. We'll be gone in four years, and there will be another class to exploit. And that would be a shame.

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Letters to the Editor

Dube defends WMNJ format

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the numerous misconceptions stated in last week's "DJ's dumped," ironically signed by WMNJ's own News Director, Dalton Einhorn, who has yet to confront me personally about his grievances or to find out the reasons for my decisions.

Like most college radio stations, WMNJ is based on a non-commercial, non-Top Forty format. The key words here are non-Top Forty and format.

Non-Top Forty means that on most occasions, specifically prime time (6pm-12am), a listener will not hear music heard on most commercial FM stations. Format, an idea Mr. Einhorn advocated during last year's executive board meetings, is a way of grouping music into blocks of time to facilitate scheduling and consistency.

WMNJ has always reserved prime time for non-commercial, alternative music. This year, Monday through Friday is reserved for Progressive, Saturday for Heavy Metal, and Sunday for Jazz.

The reasons for utilizing a non-Top Forty format are not dictated by executive board members' "whim and preference," but by necessity. First, non-commercial college radio stations have educational responsibilities to the community mandated by the Federal Communications Commission. College radio stations fulfill these obligations by exposing the public to diverse genres of music — folk, country, jazz, new age, progressive, reggae, blues, classical.

Furthermore, college radio provides an alternative to commercial radio stations that have specific, repetitive play lists dictated by major record companies.

Lastly, WMNJ does not have the funds to buy albums from major record companies of album-oriented rock (AOR), so we must rely on the "free" service of record companies that debut "alternative, non-commercial artists."

The purpose of college radio had been reiterated over and over, but in the case of these gentlemen, it fell on deaf ears, along with the scheduling process which was explained at WMNJ's organizational meeting on September 2, 1987, and in an information sheet mailed to all returning DJ's.

DJ's were informed that when filling out the schedule, to bear in mind that 6pm-12am Monday-Friday was reserved for Progressive, and that 3pm-12am Saturday and Sunday were reserved for Heavy Metal and Jazz, respectively. Furthermore, spots would be designated on three criteria — availability, competency, and type of music played. Seniority was never one of the criterion.

When I received the schedules of the "returning" Rock-DJ's, the only spots they had left available were in the prime-time Progressive or Heavy Metal spots. I knew they had no intention of playing these types of music and since they had no other times free, I could not give them a show of their choice. I did not make Rock "expendable;" these gentlemen made themselves expendable. Rock music can still be found on WMNJ Thursdays 12am-1pm, Saturdays 3am-3pm, and in other spots labelled AOR.

Regarding my allegedly "contemptuous" remark to Mr. Einhorn, it is true that I wrote it, but it was meant sarcastically, not maliciously, which should have been obvious by the "HA! HA!" written after it. Therefore, I apologize for my inability to realize that Mr. Einhorn cannot take a joke.

If these gentlemen want to speak of "tastelessness" and "contempt," it should be noted that when they did not get shows of their choosing, they decided they would start to assume the responsibilities of my job. They asked a few DJ's if they would be willing to forfeit an hour or two of their shows so that they could broadcast during prime time. Oddly enough, they consulted DJ's in times that they had told me they were unavailable.

In our quest for 100 watts, we have tried to improve the responsibility, organization, and professionalism of WMNJ. This has entailed making changes and implementing policies that have disappointed individuals who were accustomed to the old way of doing things.

I am always willing to listen to the questions, ideas, and problems of the staff and community. However, it is impossible for me to do so when those with the suggestions and grievances do not confront me personally.

Colleen M. Dube
Air Staff Director

Drew Photo Gallery is needed

To the Editor:

George Furman, in last week's edition of the *Acorn*, attacked the Photography Club Gallery, saying that funds spent for the Gallery are "not to benefit the students, but to serve the university's system."

Since I have been involved in the activities of the Photography Club Gallery during its fourteen years, I would like to present some relevant facts which did not appear in George's essay. Three issues have special importance.

1. The first allegation is that "few undergraduates have made use of the gallery. It has been used mostly by people from off-campus or other universities. The gallery has become a way to get people to visit Drew."

In fact, a study of the Gallery Guest-Book indicates that between 85 and 90 percent of the viewers are from on-campus.

Students participate in hanging the shows, have sometimes contributed input into the choice of outsider shows, and completely direct the Annual Student-Faculty Show. Almost all of the persons who enter photographs in the Show are students.

2. George's second major allegation is that "The gallery could be better utilized, perhaps, by emphasizing the work of Drew students. Undergraduate painters, sculptors and photographers need to have their works displayed more than once a year."

As for student painters and sculptors, there are already four highly visible places on campus where their work is regularly shown.

How much do Drew student photographers want to display their work? Students (and alumni) who have directed the Annual Student-Faculty Show say that getting students to enter their work in the Show is a difficult and frustrating endeavor. Recent Show directors

have worried about whether there would be enough entries for the Show to go on.

The Photography Club has a glass display case, installed near the TV set in the University Center, which was donated by an alumnus specifically for the students to show their work. But the response of Drew student photographers has been weak; unfortunately, there are times when the display case is empty. A relevant explanatory factor is that Drew currently offers but one photography course, given only in January and in the Summer Session. Students' desire to have their work hung is not as strong as George, a transfer student, believes. Given these facts, his proposal is not very practical.

3. To terminate the policy of bringing outstanding photography shows to Drew would institute a policy of parochialism. Consider a parallel case; what would the music scene at this university be like if ECAB and the Social Committee would start funding and hiring bands consisting only of Drew students?

J.W. Copeland

George Furman replies: The Photo Gallery may not be expendable to the University, but it is expendable to the Photo Club. ECAB is a poor family and cannot afford to feed its neighbor's children. The money that supports the gallery can be better used to educate the members of the Photo Club. Unfortunately, Professor Copeland missed the entire point of the article, to wit "misspent funds are stolen funds." The question is not "Should we keep the gallery?" but "Should the Photo Club be forced to pay for it?" Professor Copeland is complaining about the suggested solutions to the problem, and not the problem itself.

A letter a day keeps Mike Lief Away...